



1638

# Newes from America; or, A New and Experimentall Discoverie of New England

John Underhill

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Newes from America; Or, A New and  
Experimentall Discoverie of New England;  
Containing, A Trve Relation of Their War-like  
Proceedings These Two Yeares Last Past, with a  
Figure of the Indian Fort, or Palizado

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## John Underhill *Newes from America* (1638)

John Underhill's *Newes from America* was the most complete contemporary published account of the Pequot War of 1636-1637. Underhill was one of the Massachusetts commanders in the expedition against Block Island in August 1636 and in the force that destroyed the fortified Pequot village at Mystic in May 1637.

The expansion of English settlements into the Connecticut River valley and the northern shore of Long Island Sound brought them into contact and conflict with new groups of Native inhabitants and into competition with the Dutch from New Netherlands. In July 1633, the trader John Oldham was killed off Block Island (probably by Narragansetts from the mainland), and early the following winter traders John Stone, Walter Norton, and six crew were killed by western Niantics, a tributary tribe of the Pequots. After a series of inconclusive negotiations, the Bay Colony sent a punitive expedition under John Endicott in August 1636 to reduce the Block Island Indians and to demand reparations from the mainland Pequots. This effort was only marginally successful: several villages, fields, and supply caches were destroyed, but the Indians avoided any pitched battles, although a number were killed. Having riled up the Natives of southern Connecticut, the army sailed back to the Bay. The Pequots retaliated on the Connecticut English by besieging their fort at Saybrook and attacking settlements along the Connecticut River through the winter and spring. The Connecticut and Bay colonies combined forces and engaged native Mohegan allies for a more definitive offensive. An army of about 100 militia under Underhill and John Mason left Saybrook by ship, landed on the western shore of the Narragansett Bay and enlisted the Narragansetts and Eastern Niantics as allies. They marched overland two days westward and surprised the Pequot fortified village near Mystic on May 26, 1637. The English attacked at dawn, and fired the village; the fleeing inhabitants were "received and entertained with the point of the sword." Of the 600-800 village inhabitants, there were only 14 survivors. The next three months were spent searching and destroying or capturing the remaining members of the tribe. Most Pequot survivors were either sold in the West Indies or given to the Indian allies as slaves. As Underhill did not participate in these later campaigns, they receive short notice in his account.

John Underhill (c.1608-1672) was born in the Netherlands to English parents and received military training in the service of William, Prince of Orange. In 1630 he was hired by the Massachusetts Bay Colony with the rank of captain to help train the colony's militia. Following his service in the Pequot War, he faced charges of Antinomianism and adultery. He was removed from office and disenfranchised in 1637, banished in 1638, and excommunicated in 1640. He settled in Dover (New Hampshire) and ultimately was reconciled with the Massachusetts authorities after a public repentance. He removed to Connecticut in 1642, but left in 1653 to accept a captaincy in New Netherland's military forces. He prosecuted their war with the Natives of Long Island and southwestern Connecticut, destroying villages at Massapequa and Stamford. He lived in Flushing until 1653, when he served with the English in their war with the Dutch. He afterwards returned to Long Island and settled at Oyster Bay, where he died in 1672.

As a writer, Underhill displays a disarmingly charming style, for someone who at least three times commanded the wholesale slaughter of Natives. His prose is studded with aphorisms ("More men would goe to Sea, if they were sure to meet with no stormes") and wry commentary (on the Native style of battle: "after such a manner, as I dare boldly affirme, they might fight seven yeares and not kill seven men"). He interrupts his account of the landing at Block Island with a digression of the position of women in Massachusetts, and then resumes: "But to the matter, the Arrowes flying thicke about us, ..." About a third of the *Newes from America* is devoted to the opportunities for settlement still remaining in Connecticut, Plymouth, Maine, or other places, mostly outside the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He writes also a long reflection, prompted by the story of the two "captive maids," on the tribulations of the Christian and the necessity of "taking up the cross" and trusting in the Lord. He does also confront the question "Why should you be so furious (as some have said) should not Christians have more mercy and compassion?" and concludes: "We had sufficient light from the word of God for our proceedings."

This online electronic edition of *Newes from America* is based on the text of the first edition published in London in 1638. The spelling, punctuation, etc., are those of the original edition. Some explanatory notes and a selected bibliography have been added at the end.

NEVVES FROM  
 AMERICA;  
 OR,  
 A NEW AND EXPERI-  
 MENTALL DISCOVERIE OF  
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 CONTAINING,  
 A TRVE RELATION OF THEIR  
 War-like proceedings these two yeares last  
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 or Palizado.

Also a discovery of these  
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 tants which would yeeld  
 speciall accommodation  
 to such as will Plant  
 there,

Viz.

*Queenapoick.*  
*Agu-wom.*  
*Hudsons River.*  
*Long Island.*  
*Nabanticut.*  
*Martins Vinyard.*  
*Pequet.*  
*Naransett Bay.*  
*Elizabeth Islands.*  
*Puscat away.*  
*Casko* with about a hun-  
 dred Islands neere to  
*Casko.*

---

By Captaine I OHN U NDERHILL, a Commander  
 in the Warres there.

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LONDON,  
 Printed by J. D. for *Peter Cole*, and are to be sold at the signe  
 of the Glove in Corne-hill neere the  
 Royall Exchange. 1638.



Newes from *America*, or a late  
and experimentall discoverie  
of *New England*.

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I Shall not spend time (for my other occasions will not permit) to write largely of every particular, but shall as briefly as I may performe these two things, first give a true narration, of the warre-like proceedings that hath been in *New England* these two years last past. Secondly, I shall discover to the Reader divers places in *New England*, that would afford speciall accommodations to such persons as will plant upon them, I had not time to doe either of these as they deserved, but wanting time to doe it as the nature of the thing required; I shall according to my abilitie begin with a Relation of our warre-like proceedings, and will inter-weave the speciall places fit for *New Plantations*, with their description, as I shall find occasion in the following discourse, but I shall according to my promise begin with a true relation of the new *England* warres against the *Block-Islanders*, and that insolent and barbarous Nation, called the *Pequeats*, whom by the sword of the

Lord, and a few feeble instruments, souldiers not accustomed to warre, were drove out of their Countrey, and slaine by the sword, to the number of fifteene hundred soules in the space of two moneths and lesse: so as their Countrey is fully subdued and fallen into the hands of the English: And to the end that Gods name might have the glory, and his people see his power, and magnifie his honour for his great goodnesse I have indevoured according to my weake ability, to set forth the full relation of the Warre from the first rise to the end of the victory.

The cause of our war against the *Block Islanders*, was for taking away the life of one Master *John Oldham*, who made it his common course trade amongst the Indians: he coming to *Block-Island* to drive trade with them, the Islanders came into his boate and having got a full view of commodities which gave them good content, consulted how they might destroy him and his company, to the end they might cloth their bloody flesh with his lawful garments. The Indians having laid the plot into the boate they came to trade as they pretended watching their opportunities, knockt him in the head, & martyred him most Barbarously, to the great griefe of his poore distressed servants, which by the providence of God were saved. This Island lying in the rode way to the Lord *Sey*, and the Lord *Brookes* plantation, a certaine Sea man called to *John Gallop* Master of the *Small navigation* standing along to the *Mathethusis Bay*, and seeing a boate under saile close aboard the Island, and perceiving the sailes to be unskilful-

ly managed, bred in him a jealousy, whether that the Island Indians had not bloodily taken the life of our Countrey-men, and made themselves Master of their goods: suspecting this, he bore up to them and approaching neere them was confirmed that his jealousy was just, seeing Indians in the boate, and knowing her to be the vessel of Master *Oldham*; and not seeing him there gave fire upon them and slew some, others leaped over board; besides two of the number which he preserved alive and brought to the bay. The blood of the innocent called for vengeance, God stirred up the heart of the honoured Governour Master *Henrie Vane* and the rest of the worthy Magistrates to send forth a 100. well appointed Souldiers under the conduct of Captaine *John Hendicot*, and in company with him that had command, Captaine *John Vnderhill*, Captaine *Nathan Turner*, Captaine *William Ienningson*, besides other inferiour Officers. I would not have the world wonder at the great number of Commanders to so few men, but know that the Indians fight farre differs from the Christian practise, for they most commonly divide themselves into small bodies, so that we are forced to neglect our usuall way and to subdivide our divisions to answer theirs, and not thinking it any disparagement, to any Captaine to go forth against an Enemy with a squaldron of men taking the ground from the old & ancient practise when they chose Captaines of hundreds and Captaine of thousands, Captaines of fifties and Captaines of tens: We conceive a Captaine signifieth the chiefe in way of Command of



any body committed to his charge for the time being whether of more or lesse, it makes no matter in power though in honour it doth. Comming to an anchor before the Island we espied an Indian walking by the shore in a desolate manner as though he had received intelligence of our comming. Which Indian gave just ground to some to conclude that the body of the people had disorted the Island.

But some knowing them for the generality to be a warlike nation, a people that spend most of their time in the studie of warlike policy were not perswaded that they would upon so slender termes forsake the Island, but rather suspected they might lye behind a banke, much like the forme of a Baracado: my selfe with others rode with a Shallop made towards the shore, having in the Boat a dozen armed souldiers drawing neere to the place of landing, the number that rose from behind the Barracado, were betweene 50. or 60. able fighting men, men as strait as arrowes, very tall, and of active bodyes, having their arrowes nockt, they drew neere to the water side, and let flie at the souldiers, as though they had meant to have made an end of us all in a moment; they shot a young Gentleman in the necke thorow a collar for stiffnesse, as if it had beene an oaken boord, and entered his flesh a good depth; my selfe received an arrow through my coate sleeve, a second against my Helmet on the forehead, so as if God in his providence had not moved the heart of my wife to perswade mee to carrie it along with me which I was unwilling to doe, I had beene slaine. Give me

leave to observe *two things* from hence first when the houre of Death is not yet come, you *see God useth weake meanes to keepe his purpose unviolated*. Secondly, let no man despise advise and Counsell of his wife though shee be a woman; it were strange to nature to thinke a man should be bound to fulfill the humour of a woman, what armes hee should carry, but you see God will have it so, that a woman should overcome a man: what with *Dalilahs* flattery, and with her mournfull teares they must and will have their desire, when the hand of God goes a long in the matter; and this is to accomplish his owne will, therefore let the clamour bee quencht I daily heare in my eares, that *New England* men usurpe over their Wives, and keepe them in servile subjection: the Countrey is wronged in this matter, as in many things else: let this president satisfie the doubtfull, for that comes from the example of a rude souldier: if they bee so curteous to their wives, as to take their advice in warlike matters, how much more kind is the tender affectionate husband to honour his wife as the weaker vessell? Yet mistake not; I say not that they are bound to call their wives in Councell, though they are bound to take their private advice (so farre as they see it make for their advantage and their good :) instance *Abraham*. But to the matter, the Arrowes flying thicke about us, wee made hast to the shore, but the suffe of the Sea being great, hindered us, so as wee could scarce discharge a Musket, but were forced to make hast to land: drawing neere the shore through the strength of wind, and

the hollownesse of the Sea, wee durst not adventure to runne ashore, but were forced to wade up to the middle, but once having got up of our legges, wee gave fire upon them, they finding our bullets to out-reach their arrowes, they fled before us; in the meane while Colonell *Hindecot* made to the shore, and some of this number also repulsed him at his landing, but hurt none : wee thought they would stand it out with us, but they perceiving wee were in earnest, fled; and left their Wigwams or houses, and provision to the use of our souldiers : having set forth our Sentinels, and laid out our Pardues, wee betooke our selves to the guard, expecting hourelly they would fall upon us; but they observed the old rule, 'tis good sleeping in a whole skin, and left us free from an alarum.

The next day wee set upon our march, the *Indians* being retired into Swamps, so as wee could not find them, wee burnt and spoyled both houses and corne in great abundance: but they kept themselves in obscuritie : Captaine *Turner* stepping aside to a Swampe, met with some few *Indians*, and charged upon them, changing some few bullets for Arrowes, himselfe received a shot upon the breast of his Corslet, as if it had beene pushed with a pike, and if hee had not had it on, hee had lost his life.

A prettie passage worthy observation, wee had an *Indian* with us that was an interpreter, being in English cloathes, and a Gunne in his hand, was spied by the Ilanders, which called out to him, what are you an Indian or an English-man : come hither,

saith he, and I will tell you; hee pulls up his cocke and let fly at one of them, and without question was the death of him: Having spent that day in burning and spoyling the Iland, wee tooke up the quarter for that night, about midnight my selfe went out with ten men about two miles from our quarter, and discovered the most eminent Plantation, they had in the Iland where was much corne, many Wigwams, and great heapes of mats; but fearing lest wee should make an alarum by setting fire on them; wee left them as wee found them, and peaceably departed to our quarter : and the next morning with 40. men marched up to the same Plantation, burnt their houses, cut downe their corne, destroyed some of their dogges in stead of men, which they left in their Wigwams.

Passing on toward the water side to imbarque our souldiers, wee met with severall famous Wigwams with great heapes of pleasant corne ready shaled, but not able to bring it away, wee did throw their mattes upon it, and set fire and burnt it : many well-wrought mattes our souldiers brought from thence, and severall delightfull baskets : wee being divided into two parts, the rest of the body met with no lesse, I suppose, then our selves did. The *Indians* playing least in sight, wee spent our time, and could no more advantage our selves then wee had already done, and having slaine some fourteen, & maimed others, wee imbarqued our selves, and set saile for *Seasbrooke* fort, where wee lay through distresse of weather foure dayes, then we departed.



The *Pequeats* having slaine one Captaine *Norton*, and Captaine *Stone*, with seven more of their company, order was given us to visit them, sayling along the *Nabanticot* shore with five vessels, the Indians spying of us came running in multitudes along the water side, crying, what cheere Englishmen, what cheere, what doe you come for? They not thinking we intended warre went on cheerefully untill they come to Pequeat riuer. We thinking it the best way did forbear to answer them; first, that we might the better bee able to runne through the worke. Secondly, that by delaying of them, we might drive them in securitie, to the end wee might have the more advantage of them: but they seeing wee would make no answer, kept on their course, and cryed, what Englishman, what cheere, what cheere, are you hoggerie, will you cram us? That is, are you angry, will you kill us, and doe you come to fight. That night the *Nabanticot* Indians, and the *Pequeats*, made fire on both sides of the River, fearing we would land in the night. They made most dolefull, and wofull cryes all the night, (so that wee could scarce rest) hollowing one to another, and giving the word from place to place, to gather their forces together, fearing the English were come to warre against them.

The *Indians*  
send to the  
*English* an  
Ambassador.

The next morning they sent early aboard an Ambassador, a grave Senior, a man of good understanding, portly, cariage grave, and majesticall in his expressions; he demanded of us what the end of our comming was, to which we answered, that the Governours of the *Bay* sent us to demand the heads

of those persons that had slaine Captaine *Norton*, and Captaine *Stone*, and the rest of their company, and that it was not the custome of the English to suffer murtherers to live, and therefore if they desired their owne peace and welfare, they will peaceably answer our expectation, and give us the heads of the murderers.

They being a witty and ingenious Nation, their Ambassador laboured to excuse the matter, and answered, we know not that any of ours have slaine any English: true it is, saith he, we have slaine such a number of men, but consider the ground of it; not long before the comming of these *English* into the River, there was a certaine vessell that came to us in way of trade, we used them well, and traded with them, and tooke them to be such as would not wrong us in the least matter; but our *Sachem* or Prince comming aboard, they laid a plot how they might destroy him, which plot discovereth it selfe by the event, as followeth: they keeping their boat aboard, and not desirous of our company, gave us leave to stand hollowing ashore, that they might worke their mischievous plot: but as wee stood they called to us, and demanded of us a bushell of *Wampam-Peke*, which is their money, this they demanded for his ransome, this peale did ring terribly in our eares, to demand so much for the life of our Prince, whom we thought was in the hands of honest men, and wee had never wronged them; but we saw there was no remedy, their expectation must be granted, or else they would not send him ashore, which

\* This was no wayes true of the *English*, but a devised excuse.

they promised they would doe, if wee would answer their desires: wee sent them so much aboard according to demand, and they according to their promise sent him ashore, \* but first slew him, this, much exasperated our spirits, and made us vow a revenge; suddenly after came these Captaines with a vessel into the River, and pretended to trade with us as the former did: wee did not discountenance them for the present, but tooke our opportunity and came aboard. The *Sachems* sonne succeeding his Father, was the man that came into the Cabin of Captaine *Stone*, and Captaine *Stone* having drunke more then did him good, fell backwards on the bed asleepe, the *Sagamore* tooke his opportunitie, and having a little hatchet under his garment, therewith knockt him in the head: some being upon the deck and others under, suspected some such thing, for the rest of the *Indians* that were aboard, had order to proceed against the rest at one time, but the *English* spying trecherie, runne immediatly into the Cooke roome, and with a fire-brand had thought to have blowne up the *Indians* by setting fire to the powder: these devils instruments spying this plot of the *English*, leaped over-board as the powder was a firing, and saved themselves, but all the *English* were blowne up, this was the manner of their bloody action: Saith the Ambassadour to us, could yee blame us for revenging so cruell a murder? for we distinguish not betweene the *Dutch* and *English*, but tooke them to be one Nation, and therefore we doe not conceive that we wronged you, for they slew our king; and

thinking these Captaines to be of the same Nation and people, as those that slew him, made us set upon this course of revenge.

Our answer was, they were able to distinguish betweene *Dutch* and *English*, having had sufficient experience of both Nations; and therefore seeing you have slaine the king of *Englands* subjects, we come to demand an account of their blood, for we our selves are lyable to account for them: the answer of the Ambassadour was, we know no difference betweene the *Dutch* and the *English*, they are both strangers to us, we tooke them to bee all one, therefore we crave pardon, wee have not wilfully wronged the *English*: This excuse will not serve our turnes, for wee haue sufficient testimonie that you know the *English* from the *Dutch*, we must have the heads of those persons that have slaine ours, or else wee will fight with you: He answered; understanding the ground of your comming, I will intreat you to give me libertie to goe ashore, and I shall informe the body of the people what your intent and resolution is: and if you will stay aboard, I will bring you a sudden answer.

The answer of the *English* to their Ambassador.

We did grant him liberty to get ashore, and our selves followed suddenly after before the Warre was proclaimed: hee seeing us land our forces, came with a message to intreat us to come no neerer, but stand in a valley, which had betweene us and them an ascent, that took our sight from them; but they might see us to hurt us, to our prejudice: thus from the first beginning to the end of the action, they car-

ried themselves very subtilly; but wee not willing to bee at their direction marched up to the ascent, having set our men in battally; he came and told us he had inquired for the *Sachem*, that we might come to a parlie: but neither of both of the Princes were at home, they were gone to *Long Island*.

Our reply was, we must not be put off thus, we know the *Sachem* is in the Plantation, and therefore bring him to us, that we may speake with him, or else we will beat up the Drumme, and march through the Countrey, and spoyle your corne: His answer, if you will but stay a little while, I will steppe to the Plantation and seeke for them: wee gave them leave to take their owne course; and used as much patience as ever men might, considering the grosse abuse they offered us, holding us above an houre in vaine hopes: they sent an *Indian* to tell us that *Mommenoteck* was found, and would appeare before us suddenly, this brought us to a new stand the space of an houre more. There came a third *Indian* perswading us to have a little further patience, and he would not tarry, for he had assembled the body of the *Pequeats* together, to know who the parties were that had slaine these *English* men: but seeing that they did in this interim convey away their wives and children, and bury their chieftest goods, and perceived at length they would flye from us, but we were patient, and bore with them, in expectation to have the greater blow upon them. The last messenger brought us this intelligence from the *Sachum*; that if wee would but

lay downe our armes, and approach about thirtie paces from them, and meet the heathen Prince, he would cause his men to doe the like, and then we shall come to a parlie.

But wee seeing their drift was to get our Armes, we rather chose to beat up the Drum and bid them battell, marching into a champion field we displayed our colours, but none would come neere us, but standing remotely off did laugh at us for our patience, wee suddenly set upon our march, and gave fire to as many as we could come neere, firing their Wigwams, spoyling their corne, and many other necessities that they had buried in the ground we raked up, which the souldiers had for bootie. Thus we spent the day burning and spoyling the Countrey, towards night imbarqued our selves the next morning, landing on the *Nahanticot* shore, where we were served in like nature, no *Indians* would come neere us, but runne from us, as the Deere from the dogges; but having burnt and spoyled what we could light on, wee imbarqued our men, and set sayle for the *Bay*, having ended this exploit came off, having one man wounded in the legge; but certaine numbers of theirs slaine, and many wounded; this was the substance of the first yeares service: now followeth the service performed in the second yeare.

This insolent Nation, seeing wee had used much Lenitie towards them, and themselves not able to make good use of our patience, set upon a course of greater insolencie then before, and slew all they

found in their way: they came neere *Seabrooke* fort, and made many proud challenges, and dared them out to fight.

The Lieutenant went out with tenne armed men, and starting three *Indians* they changed some few shotte for arrowes; pursuing them an hundred more started out of the ambushments, and almost surrounded him and his company, and some they slew, others they maimed, and forced them to retreat to their Fort, so that it was a speciall providence of God that they were not all slaine: some of their armes they got from them, others put on the English clothes, and came to the Fort jeering of them, and calling, come and fetch your English mens clothes againe; come out and fight if you dare: you dare not fight, you are all one like women, we have one amongst us that if he could kill but one of you more, he would be equall with God, and as the *English* mans God is, so would hee be; this blasphemous speech troubled the hearts of the souldiers, but they knew not how to remedy it in respect of their weaknesse.

The *Conetticot* Plantation understanding the insolencie of the enemie to bee so great, sent downe a certaine number of souldiers under the conduct of Captaine *John Mason* for to strengthen the Fort. The enemy lying hovering about the Fort, continually tooke notice of the supplies that were come, and forbore drawing neere it as before: and Letters were immediatly sent to the *Bay*, to that Right worshipfull Gentleman, Master *Henry Vane*, for a speedy supply to strengthen the Fort. For assuredly without

supply suddenly came in reason all would be lost, and fall into the hands of the enemy; This was the trouble and perplexity that lay upon the spirits of the poore garrisons. Upon serious consideration the Governour and Councell sent forth my selfe with 20. armed souldiers to supply the necessitie of those distressed persons, and to take the government of that place for the space of three moneths: reliefe being come, Captaine *John Mason* with the rest of his company returned to the Plantation againe: we sometimes fell out with a matter of twentie souldiers to see whether we could discover the enemy or no; they seeing us (lying in ambush) gave us leave to passe by them, considering we were too hot for them to meddle with us; our men being compleatly armed, with Corslets, Muskets, bandileeres, rests, and swords (as they themselves related afterward) did much daunt them; thus we spent a matter of six weekes before we could have any thing to doe with them, perswading our selves that all things had beene well. But they seeing there was no advantage more to be had against the Fort, they enterprized a new action, and fell upon *Water towne*, now called *Wethersfield* with two hundred *Indians*; before they came to attempt the place, they put into a certaine River, an obscure small river running into the maine, where they incamped, and refreshed themselves, and fitted themselves for their service, and by breake of day attempted their enterprise, and slew nine men, women and children, having finished their action, they suddenly returned againe, bringing with them two



maids captives, having put poles in their Conoos, as we put Masts in our boats, and upon them hung our English mens and womens shirts and smocks, in stead of sayles, and in way of bravado came along in sight of us as we stood upon *Seybrooke* Fort, and seeing them passe along in such a triumphant manner, wee much fearing they had enterprised some desperate action upon the *English*, wee gave fire with a peece of Ordnance, and shotte among their Conoos. And though they were a mile from us, yet the bullet grazed not above twentie yards over the Conooe, where the poore maids were; it was a speciall providence of God it did not hit them, for then should we have beene deprived of the sweet observation of Gods providence in their deliverance: we were not able to make out after them, being destitute of meanes, Boats, and the like: before wee proceed any further to a full relation of the insolent proceeding of this barbarous Nation, give me leave to touch upon the severall accommodations that belong to this *Seybrooke* Fort.

The scituation of *Seabrooke* Fort.

This Fort lyes upon a River called *Connetticot* at the mouth of it, a place of a very good soyle, good meadow, divers sorts of good wood, timber, varietie of fish of severall kindes, fowle in abundance, Geese, Duckes, Brankes, Teales, Deere, Roe buck, Squirrels, which are as good as our *English* Rabets; pittie it is so famous a place should bee so little regarded, it lyes to the Northwest of that famous place, called *Queenapiok*, which rather exceed the former in goodness, it hath a faire River fit for harbour-

ing of ships, and abounds with rich and goodly meadowes, this lyes thirtie miles from the upper Plantations, which are planted on the River *Connetticot*: twelve miles above this Plantation is scituated a place called *Aguarwam*, no way inferiour to the forenamed places; this Countrey, and those parts doe generally yeeld a fertile soyle, and good meadow all the Rivers along: the river *Connetticot* is Navigable for Pinaces 60. miles; it hath a strong fresh streame that descends out of the hills, the tyde flowes not above halfe way up the River: the strength of the freshite that comes downe the River is so strong, that it stoppeth the force of the tyde.

The truth is, I want time to set forth the excellencie of the whole Countrey; but if you would know the garden of *New England*, then must you glance your eye upon *Hodsons* river, a place exceeding all yet named, the River affords fish in abundance, as Sturgeon, Salmon, and many delicate varieties of fish that naturally lyes in the River, the onely place for Beaver that we have in those parts. *Long Island* is place worth the naming, and generally affords most of the aforesaid accommodations. *Nabanticot*, *Martins Vineyard*, *Pequeat*, *Narraganset Bay*, *Elizabeth Islands*, all these places are yet uninhabited, and generally afford good accommodation; as a good soyle according as wee have expressed, they are little inferiour to the former places. The *Narraganset Bay* is a place for shipping so spacious, as it will containe ten thousand sayle of ships. *Capcod*, *New Plimouth*, *Dukes bury*, and all those parts, well accommodat-

ed for the receiving of people, and yet few are there planted, considering the spaciousnesse of the place; The *Bay* it selfe although report goes it is full, and can hardly entertaine any more, yet there are but few townes, but are able to receive more then they have already, and to accommodate them in a comfortable measure.

The Northerne Plantations, and Easterne, as *Puscataway* would not bee neglected, they are desirable places, and lye in the heart of fishing. *Puscataway* is a River navigable for a ship of a hundred tunne some six leagues up: with Boats and Pinaces you may goe a great way further; it is the onely key of the Countrey for safety; with twelve peeces of Ordnance will keepe out all the enemies in the world: the mouth of the River is narrow, lyes full upon the Southeast Sea; so as there is no anking without, except you hazard ship and men: it is accommodated with a good soyle, abundance of good timber, meadows are not wanting to the place; pity it is it hath beene so long neglected.

*Augumeaticus* is a place of good accommodation, it lyes five miles from *Puscataway* river, where Sir *Ferdinando Gorge* hath a house: it is a place worthy to bee inhabited, a soyle that beares good corne, all sorts of graine, flax, hemp, the Countrey generally will afford: there was growne in *Puscataway* the last yeare, and in the *Bay* as good *English* graine as can grow in any part of the world. *Casko* hath a famous Bay accommodated with a hundred Ilands, and is fit for Plantation, and hath a River belong-

ing to it, which doth afford fish in abundance, fowle also in great measure: so full of Fowle it is, that strangers may be supplied with varietie of fowle in an houre or two after their arrivall, which knew not how to be relieved before; because the place in generall is so famous, and well knowne to all the world, and chiefly to our English Nation (the most noblest of this Common-wealth) I therefore forbear many particulars which yet might be expressed: and in regard of many aspersions hath beene cast upon all the Countrey, that it is a hard and difficult place for to subsist in; and that the soyle is barren, and beares little that is good, and that it can hardly receive more people then those that are there, I will presume to make a second digression from the former matter, to the end I might incourage such as desire to Plant there.

There are certaine Plantations *Dedum Concord* in the *Mathethusis Bay*, that are newly erected that doe afford large accommodation, and will containe abundance of people; but I cease to spend time in matters of this nature, since my discourse tends to warlike story, but I crave pardon for my digression.

I told you before, that when the *Pequeats* heard and saw *Seabrooke* Fort was supplied, they forbore to visit us: But the old Serpent according to his first malice stirred them up against the Church of Christ, and in such a furious manner, as our people were so farre disturbed, and affrighted with their boldnesse that they scarce durst rest in their beds: threatening persons and cattell to take them, as indeed they did:



so insolent were these wicked imps growne, that like the divell their commander, they runne up and downe as roaring Lyons, compassing all corners of the Countrey for a prey, seeking whom they might devoure: It being death to them for to rest without some wicked imployment or other, they still plotted how they might wickedly attempt some bloody enterprize upon our poore native Countrey-men.

One Master *Tillie* master of a Vessell, being brought to an ankor in *Conetticot* River, went ashore, not suspecting the bloody-mindednesse of those persons, who fell upon him, and a man with him, whom they wickedly and barbarously slew; and by relation brought him home, tied him to a stake, flead his skin off, put hot imbers betweene the flesh and the skinne, cut off his fingers and toes, and made hatbands of them, thus barbarous was their cruelty: would not this have moved the hearts of men to hazard blood, and life, and all they had, to overcome such a wicked insolent Nation? but Letters comming into the Bay, that this attempt was made upon *Wethersfield* in *Conetticot* river, and that they had slaine nine men, women and children, and taken two maids captives, the Councell gave order to send supply. In the meane while the *Conetticot* Plantations sent downe 100. armed souldiers, under the conduct of Captaine *John Mason*, and Lieutenant *Seily*, with other inferiour officers, who by Commission were bound for to come to *randivou* at *Seabrooke* Fort, and thereto consult with those that had command there to enterprize some stratagem upon these bloody *Indians*.

The *Conetticot* company having with them three-score *Mohiggeners*, whom the *Pequeats* had drove out of their lawfull possessions; These *Indians* were earnest to joyne with the *English*, or at least to bee under their conduct, that they might revenge themselves of those bloody enemies of theirs, the *English* perceiving their earnest desire that way, gave them liberty to follow the company, but not to joyne in confederation with them, the *Indians* promising to be faithfull, and to doe them what service lay in their power: But having imbarqued their men, and comming downe the River, there arose great jealousy in the hearts of those that had chiefe oversight of the company, fearing that the *Indians* in time of greatest tryall might revolt, and turne their backs against those they professed to be their friends, and joyne with the *Pequeats*: this perplexed the hearts of many very much, because they had had no experience of their fidelity: but Captaine *Mason* having sent downe a Shallop to *Seybrooke* Fort, and sent the *Indians* over land to meet, and *randivou* at *Seabrooke* Fort, themselves came downe in a great massie Vessell, which was slow in comming, and very long detained by crosse winds, the *Indians* comming to *Seabrooke*, were desirous to fall out on the Lords day, to see whether they could find any *Pequeats* neere the Fort; perswading themselves that the place was not destitute of some of their enemies: but it being the Lords day, order was given to the contrary, and wished them to forbear untill the next day, giving them liberty, they fell out early in the morning, and

brought home five *Pequeats* heads, one prisoner, and mortally wounded the seventh: This mightily encouraged the hearts of all, and wee tooke this as a pledge of their further fidelity: my selfe taking boat rode up to meet the rest of the forces, lying a boord the vessell with my boat, the Minister, *one Master Stone*, that was sent to instruct the Company, was then in prayer solemnly before God, in the midst of the souldiers, and this passage worthy observation I set downe, because the providence of God might be taken notice of, and his name glorified, that is so ready for to honour his owne ordinance: the hearts of all in generall being much perplexed, fearing the infidelity of these *Indians* having not heard what an exploit they had wrought: it pleased God to *put into the heart of master Stone this passage in prayer*, while my selfe lay under the vessell and heard it, himselfe not knowing that God had sent him a messenger to tell him his prayer was granted: O Lord God, if it be thy blessed will vouchsafe so much favour to thy poore distressed servants, as to manifest one pledge of thy love that may confirme us of the fidelity of these *Indians* towards us, that now pretend friendship and service to us, that our hearts may be encouraged the more in this worke of thine: immediately my selfe stepping up, told him that God had answered his desire, and that I had brought him this newes, that those *Indians* had brought in five *Pequeats* heads, one prisoner, and wounded one mortally, which did much incourage the hearts of all, and replenished them exceedingly, and gave

them all occasion to rejoyce and bee thankfull to God: a little before wee set forth, came a certaine shippe from the *Dutch* Plantation; casting an ankor under the command of our Ordnance, we desired the Master to come ashore, the Master and Marchant willing to answer our expectation, came forth, and sitting with us awhile unexpectedly revealed their intent, that they were bound for *Pequeat* river to trade; our selves knowing the accustome of warre, that it was not the practise in a case of this nature, to suffer others to goe and trade with them our enemies, with such commodities as might be prejudiciall unto us, and advantageous to them, as kettles, or the like, which make them Arrow-heads; wee gave command to them not to stirre, alledging that our forces were intended daily to fall upon them: This being unkindly taken, it bred some agitations betweene their severall Commanders: but God was pleased out of his love to carry things in such a sweet moderate way, as all turned to his glory, and his peoples good.

These men seeing they could not have liberty to goe upon their designe: gave us a note under their hands, that if we would give them liberty to depart, they would endeavour to the utmost of their abilitie to release those two captive Maids, and this should be the chiefe scope and drift of their designe: having these promises, depending upon their faithfulness, we gave them libertie: they set sayle and went to *Pequeat* river, and sent to shore the Master of the vessell to *Sasacoose* their Prince, for to crave liber-

ty to trade, and what would they trade for, but the *English* Maides, which he much disliked; suddenly withdrawing himselfe he returned backe to the vessell, and by way of policie allured seven *Indians* into the Barke, some of them being their primemen: having them aboard, acquainted them with their intent, and told them without they might have the two Captives delivered safely aboard, they must keepe them as prisoners, and pledges, and therefore must resolve not to goe ashore, untill such time they had treated with the *Sagamore*: One of the *Dutch* called to them on the shore, and told them they must bring the two captive Maides, if they would have the seven *Indians*, and therefore briefly if you will bring them, tell us, if not we set sayle, and will turne all your *Indians* over-board in the maine Ocean, so soone as ever we come out; they taking this to be a jest, slighted what was said unto them: they weying ankor set sayle, and drew neere the mouth of the River; the *Pequeats* then discerned they were in earnest, and earnestly desired them to returne and come to an ankor, and they would answer their expectation: so they brought the two Maides, and delivered them safely aboard, and they returned to them the seven *Indians*, then they set sayle and came to *Seabrooke* Fort; bringing them to *Seabrooke* Fort, request was made to have them ashore; but in regard of the *Dutch* Governours desire, who had heard that there was two *English* Maides taken captives of the *Pequeats*, and thinking his owne Vessell to bee there a trading with them, hee had man-

aged out a Pinace purposely to give strict order and command to the former Vessell to get these Captives what charge soever they were at; nay, though they did hazard their peace with them, and to gratifie him with the first sight of them after their deliverance: so they earnestly intreated us that they might not bee brought ashore so as to stay there, or to bee sent home untill they had followed the Governours order, which willingly was granted to them, though it were 30. leagues from us, yet were they safely returned againe, and brought home to their friends: now for the examination of the two Maids after they arrived at *Seabrooke* Fort, the eldest of them was about sixteene yeares of age, demanding of her how they had used her, she told us that they did sollicite her to uncleannesse, but her heart being much broken and afflicted under that bondage she was cast in, had brought to her consideration these thoughts, how shall I commit this great evill and sinne against my God? Their hearts were much taken up with the consideration of Gods just displeasure to them, that had lived under so prudent meanes of grace as they did, and had beene so ungratefull toward God, and slighted that meanes, so that Gods hand was justly upon them for their remisnesse in all their wayes; Thus was their hearts taken up with these thoughts, the *Indians* carried them from place to place, and shewed them their Forts, and curious Wigwams, and houses, and encouraged them to be merry, but the poore soules, as Israel, could not frame themselves to any delight or

The examination of the captive Maides after their returne, though the younger was very young and said little.

mirth under so strange a King, they hanging their Harpes upon the Willow trees, gave their mindes to sorrow, hope was their chiefest food, and teares their constant drinke : behind the rocks, and under the trees, the eldest spent her breath in supplication to her God, and though the eldest was but young, yet must I confesse the sweet affection to God for his great kindnesse, and fatherly love she daily received from the Lord, which sweetned all her sorrowes, and gave her constant hope, that God would not, nor could not forget her poore distressed soule and body, because, saith she, his loving kindnesse appeareth to mee in an unspeakable manner; and though sometimes, saith shee, I cryed out *David*-like; I shall one day perish by the hands of *Saul*, I shall one day dye by the hands of these barbarous *Indians*, and specially if our people should come forth to warre against them, then is there no hope of deliverance, then must I perish, then will they cut me off in malice; but suddenly the poore soule was ready to quarrell with it selfe; why should I distrust God? doe not I daily see the love of God unspeakably to my poore distressed soule? and he hath said he will never leave mee, nor forsake mee, therefore I will not feare what man can doe unto me, knowing God to be above man, and man can doe nothing without Gods permission. These were the words that fell from her mouth whē she was examined in *Seabrook* fort : I having command of *Seabrooke* Fort she spake these things upon examination in my hearing.

Christian reader, give mee leave to appeale to the hearts of all true affectioned Christians, whether this bee not the usuall course of Gods dealing to his poore captivated children, the prisoners of hope, to distill a great measure of sweet comfort and consolation into their soules in the time of trouble, so that the soule is more affected with the sense of Gods fatherly love, then with the grieve of its captivity : sure I am, that sanctified afflictions, crosses, or any outward troubles appeare so profitable, that Gods deare Saints are forced to cry out, Thy loving kindnesse is better then life, then all the lively pleasures and profits of the world: better a prison sometimes and a Christ, then liberty without him: better in a fierie furnace with the presence of Christ, then in a Kingly palace without him: better in the Lyons denne, in the midst of all the roaring lyons and with Christ, then in a doune bed with wife and children without Christ. The speech of *David* is memorable, that sweet affectionate Prince and souldier, *how sweet is thy word to my taste; yea, sweeter then the honey, and the honey combe*; hee spake it by experience, he had the sweet relish of Gods comforting presence, and the daily communion he had with the Lord, in the midst of all his distresses, tryals, and temptations that fell upon him. And so the Lord deales to this day; the greater the captivities bee of his servants, the contentions amongst his Churches, the cleerer Gods presence is amongst his to pick and cull them out of the fire, and to manifest himselfe to their soules; and beare them up as *Peter* above the water that they sinke not.



But now my deare and respected friends and fellow souldiers in the Lord, are not you apt to say, if this be the fruit of afflictions, I would I had some of those, that I might injoy these sweet breathings of Christ in my soule, as those that are in afflictions; but beware of those thoughts, or else experience will teach all to recall, or to unwish those thoughts, for it is against the course of Scripture to wish for evill, that good might come of it, wee cannot expect the presence of Christ in that which is contrary to him, (a man laying himselfe open to trouble) but wee are rather to follow Christs example, *Father not my will, but thy will bee done, in earth as it is in heaven*; and when thou art brought thus, prostrate before the Lord like an obedient child, ready to suffer what hee will impose on thee; then if hee thinke good to trie us, wee may exclude no tryall, no captivitie though burdensome or tedious to nature, for they will appeare sweet and sanctified in the issue, if they bee of the Lords laying on: specially when the Lord is pleased to impose trouble on his in way of tryall (as hee said to *Israel* of old; I did it to prove you, and to see what was in your hearts) whether a soule would not doe as the foolish young man in the Gospel, cling more closer to his honour, or profit, or ease, or peace, or liberty, then to the Lord Iesus Christ: and therefore the Lord is pleased to exercise his people with trouble and afflictions, that hee might appeare to them in mercy, and reveale more cleerely his free grace unto their soules. Therefore consider deare brethren, and erre not, nei-

ther to the right hand, nor to the left and bee not as *Ephraim*, like an untamed heifer that would not stoope unto the yoke: but stoope to Gods afflictions if hee please to impose them, and feare them not when they are from God. And know that Christ cannot be had without a crosse; they are inseparable: you cannot have Christ in his Ordinances, but you must have his crosse. Did ever any Christian reade, that in the purest Churches that ever were, that Christians were freed from the Crosse? was not the Crosse carried after Christ? and *Andrew* must follow Christ, but not without a Crosse; he must take it and beare it, and that upon his shoulders, implying, it was not a light crosse, but weighty: Oh let not Christians shew themselves to bee so forgetfull, as I feare many are, of the old way of Christ: ease is come into the world, and men would have Christ and ease, but it will not be in this world; is the servant better then the master? no, he is not, neither shall he be. But you may demand what is meant by this crosse, wee meet with many crosses in the world, losses at home and abroad, in Church and Commonwealth: what crosse doth Christ meane? was it a crosse to bee destitute of a house to put his head in? or was it his crosse, that hee was not so deliciously fed as other men? or to bee so meane, wanting honour as others had? or was it that his habit was not answerable to the course of the world, or to bee destitute of silver and gold, as it is the lot of many of Gods saints to this day: this was not the crosse of Christ, you shall not heare him complaine of his

estate, that it is too meane, or his lodging too bad, or his garments too plaine; these were not the troubles of Christ, these are companions to the crosse. But the chiefe crosse that Christ had, was that the word of his Father could not take place in the hearts of those to whom it was sent, and suffering for the truth of his Father, that was Christs crosse; and that is the crosse too, that Christians must expect, and that in the purest Churches: And therefore why doe you stand and admire at *New England*, that there should bee contentions there, and differences there, and that for the truth of Christ? Doe you not remember that the crosse followed the Church? hath it not beene already said that Christs crosse followed him, and *Andrew* must carry it: and that *Paul* and *Barnabas* will contend together for the truths sake? And doth not the Apostle say, contend for the truth (though not in a violent way?) doth not Christ say, I came not to bring peace but a sword? and why should men wonder at us, seeing that troubles and contentions have followed the purest Churches since the beginning of the world to this day? wherefore should wee not looke backe to the Scriptures, and deny our owne reason, and let that bee our guide and Platforme, and then shall wee not so much admire, when wee know it is the portion of Gods Church to have troubles and contentions? and when we know also it is God that brings them, and that for good to his Church; hath not God ever brought light out of darknesse, good out of evill? did not the breath of Gods Spirit sweetly breathe in the soules of these

poore Captives which we now related? and doe we not ever find the greater the afflictions and troubles of Gods people bee, the more eminent is his grace in the soules of his servants? You that intend to goe to *New England*, feare not a little trouble.

More men would goe to Sea, if they were sure to meet with no stormes: but hee is the most couragious souldier, that sees the battell pitcht, the Drummes beate an alarum, and Trumpets sound a charge, and yet is not afraid to joyne in the battell: shew not your selves cowards, but proceed on in your intentions, and abuse not the lenitie of our noble Prince, and the sweet libertie hee hath from time to time given to passe and repasse according to our desired wills: wherefore doe yee stoppe, are you afraid? May not the Lord doe this to prove your hearts, to see whether you durst follow him in afflictions or not? what is become of Faith? I will not feare that man can doe unto me, saith *David*, no nor what troubles can doe, but will trust in the Lord, who is my God.

Let the ends and aimes of a man bee good, and hee may proceed with courage: the bush may bee in the fire, but so long as God appeares to *Moses* out of the bush there is no great danger, more good then hurt will come out of it: Christ knowes how to honour himselfe, and to doe his people good, though it bee by contrary meanes, which reason will not fathome. Looke but to faith, and that will make us see plainly, that though afflictions for the present are grievous, as doubtlesse it was with these two captive



Maides, yet sweet and comfortable is the issue with all Gods saints, as it was with them. But to goe on.

Having imbarqued our souldiers, wee weighed anchor at *Seabrooke* Fort, and set sayle for the *Narraganset Bay*, deluding the *Pequeats* thereby, for they expected us to fall into *Pequeat* River; but crossing their expectation, bred in them a securitie: wee landed our men in the *Narraganset Bay*, and marched over land above two dayes journey before wee came to *Pequeat*; quartering the last nights march within two miles of the place, wee set forth about one of the clocke in the morning, having sufficient intelligence that they knew nothing of our comming: Drawing neere to the Fort yeelded up our selves to God, and intreated his assistance in so waightie an enterprize. We set on our march to surround the \* Fort, Captaine *Iohn Mason*, approaching to the West end, where it had an entrance to passe into it, my selfe marching to the South side, surrounding the Fort, placing the *Indians*, for wee had about three hundred of them without, side of our souldiers in a ring battalia, giving a volley of shotte upon the Fort, so remarkable it appeared to us, as wee could not but admire at the providence of God in it, that souldiers so unexpert in the use of their armes, should give so compleat a volley, as though the finger of God had touched both match and flint: which volley being given at breake of day, and themselves fast asleepe for the most part, bred in them such a terrour, that they brake forth into a most dolefull cry, so as if God had not fitted the hearts of men for the

\* This Fort or Palizado, was well-nie an Aker of ground which was surrounded with trees, and halfe trees set into the ground three foot deepe, and fastned close one to another, as you may see more cleerly described in the figure of it before the booke.

service, it would have bred in them a commiseration towards them: but every man being bereaved of pity fell upon the worke without compassion, considering the blood they had shed of our native Countrey-men, and how barbarously they had dealt with them, and slaine first and last about thirty persons. Having given fire, wee approached neere to the entrance which they had stopped full, with armes of trees, or brakes: my selfe approaching to the entrance found the worke too heavey for mee, to draw out all those which were strongly forced in. We gave order to one Master *Hedge*, and some other souldiers to pull out those brakes, having this done, and laid them betweene me and the entrance, and without order themselves, proceeded first on the South end of the Fort: but remarkable it was to many of us; men that runne before they are sent, most commonly have an ill reward. Worthy Reader, let mee intreate you to have a more charitable opinion of me (though unworthy to be better thought of) then is reported in the other Booke: you may remember there is a passage unjustly laid upon mee, that when wee should come to the entrance, I should put forth this question: shall wee enter? others should answer againe; What came we hither for else? It is well knowne to many, it was never my practise in time of my command, when we are in garrison, much to consult with a private souldier, or to aske his advise in point of Warre, much lesse in a matter of so great a moment as that was, which experience had often taught mee, was not a time to put

forth such a question, and therefore pardon him that hath given the wrong information: having our swords in our right hand, our Carbins or Muskets in our left hand, we approched the Fort. Master *Hedge* being shot thorow both armes, and more wounded; though it bee not commendable for a man to make mention of any thing that might tend to his owne honour; yet because I would have the providence of God observed, and his Name magnified, as well for my selfe as others, I dare not omit, but let the world know, that deliverance was given to us that command, as well as to private souldiers. Captaine *Mason* and my selfe entring into the Wigwams, hee was shot, and received many Arrowes against his head-peece, God preserved him from any wounds; my selfe received a shotte in the left hippe, through a sufficient Buffe coate, that if I had not beene supplied with such a garment, the Arrow would have pierced through me; another I received betweene necke and shoulders, hanging in the linnen of my Head-peece, others of our souldiers were shot some through the shoulders, some in the face, some in the head, some in the legs: Captaine *Mason* and my selfe losing each of us a man, and had neere twentie wounded: most couragiously these *Pequeats* behaved themselves: but seeing the Fort was to hotte for us, wee devised a way how wee might save our selves and prejudice them, Captaine *Mason* entring into a Wigwam, brought out a fire-brand, after hee had wounded many in the house, then hee set fire on the West-side where he entred, my selfe set fire

on the South end with a traine of Powder, the fires of both meeting in the center of the Fort blazed most terribly, and burnt all in the space of halfe an houre; many couragious fellowes were unwilling to come out, and fought most desperately through the Palisadoes, so as they were scorched and burnt with the very flame, and were deprived of their armes, in regard the fire burnt their very bowstrings, and so perished valiantly: mercy they did deserve for their valour, could we have had opportunitie to have bestowed it; many were burnt in the Fort, both men, women, and children, others forced out, and came in troopes to the *Indians*, twentie, and thirtie at a time, which our souldiers received and entertained with the point of the sword; downe fell men, women, and children, those that scaped us, fell into the hands of the *Indians*, that were in the reere of us; it is reported by themselves, that there were about foure hundred soules in this Fort, and not above five of them escaped out of our hands. Great and dolefull was the bloody sight to the view of young souldiers that never had beene in Warre, to see so many soules lie gasping on the ground so thicke in some places, that you could hardly passe along. It may bee demanded, Why should you be so furious (as some have said) should not Christians have more mercy and compassion? But I would referre you to *David's* warre, when a people is growne to such a height of bloud, and sinne against God and man, and all confederates in the action, there hee hath no respect to persons, but harrowes them, and sawes them,

and puts them to the sword, and the most terriblest death that may bee : sometimes the Scripture declar-eth women and children must perish with their parents; some-time the case alters : but we will not dispute it now. We had sufficient light from the word of God for our proceedings.

Having ended this service, wee drew our forces together to battallia, being ordered, the *Pequeats* came upon us with their prime men, and let flye at us, my selfe fell on scarce with twelve or fourteene men to encounter with them; but they finding our bullets to outreach their arrowes, forced themselves often to retreat: when we saw wee could have no advantage against them in the open field, wee requested our *Indians* for to entertaine fight with them, our end was that we might see the nature of the *Indian* warre : which they granted us and fell out; the *Pequeats*, *Narragansets*, and *Mohigeners* changing a few arrowes together after such a manner, as I dare boldly affirme, they might fight seven yeares and not kill seven men : they came not neere one another, but shot remote, and not point blanke, as wee often doe with our bullets, but at rovers, and then they gaze up in the skie to see where the Arrow falls, and not untill it is fallen doe they shoot againe, this fight is more for pastime, then to conquer and subdue enemies. But spending a little time this way, wee were forced to cast our eyes upon our poore maimed souldiers, many of them lying upon the ground, wanting food and such nourishable things as might refresh them in this faint es-

tate : but we were not supplied with any such things whereby wee might relieve them, but only were constrained to looke up to God, and to intreate him for mercy towards them : most were thirsty but could find no water; the provision wee had for food was very little; many distractions seized upon us at the present, a Chirurghion wee wanted, our Chirurghion not accustomed to warre, durst not hazard himselfe where we ventured our lives, but like a fresh-water souldier kept aboard, and by this meanes our poore maimed souldiers were brought to a great strait and faintnesse, some of them swoounding away for want of speedy helpe, but yet God was pleased to preserve the lives of them, though not without great miserie, and paine to themselves for the present. Distractions multiplying, strength and courage began to faile with many. Our *Indians* that had stood close to us hitherto, were fallen into consultation, and were resolved for to leave us in a land wee knew not which way to get out: suddenly after their resolution, fiftie of the *Narraganset Indians* fell off from the rest returning home. The *Pequeats* spying them pursued after them: then came the *Narragansets* to Captaine *Mason*, and my selfe, crying, oh helpe us now, or our men will bee all slaine : we answered, how dare you crave aide of us, when you are leaving of us in this distressed condition, not knowing which way to march out of the Countrey : but yet you shall see it is not the nature of *English* men to deale like Heathens, to requite evill for evill, but wee will succour you: my selfe falling on with thir-

tie men, in the space of an houre rescued their men, and in our retreate to the body, slew and wounded above a hundred *Pequeats*, all fighting men that charged us both in reere and flankes. Having overtaken the body, we were resolved to march to a certaine necke of land that lay by the Sea-side, where wee intended to quarter that night, because we knew not how to get our maimed men to *Pequeat* River. As yet we saw not our Pinaces sayle along, but feared the Lord had crost them, which also the master of the Barque much feared. Wee gave them order to set sayle on the *Narraganset Bay*, about midnight, as wee were to fall upon the Fort in the morning, so that they might meet us in *Pequeat* River in the after-noone; but the wind being crosse bred in them a great perplexitie what would become of us, knowing that wee were but slenderly provided, both with munition and provision: but they being in a distracted condition lifted up their hearts to God for helpe: about twelve of the clocke the wind turned about and became faire, it brought them along in sight of us, and about tenne a clocke in the morning carried them into *Pequeat* river, comming to an ankor at the place appointed, the wind turned as full against them as ever it could blow. How remarkable this providence of God was I leave to a Christian eye to judge; Our *Indians* came to us, and much rejoyced at our victories, and greatly admired the manner of *English* mens fight: but cried *mach it, mach it*; that is, it is naught, it is naught, because it is too furious, and slaies too many men. Having received their

desires, they freely promised, and gave up themselves to march along with us, where ever we would goe. God having eased us from that oppression that lay upon us, thinking wee should have beene left in great misery for want of our vessels, we diverted our thoughts from going to that neck of land; and faced about, marching to the river where our vessels lay at ankor. One remarkable passage. The *Pequeats* playing upon our flankes; One Sergeant *Davis*, a pretty couragious souldier, spying something black upon the toppe of a rock, stepped forth from the body with a Carbine of three foot long, and at a venture gave fire, supposing it to bee an *Indians* head, turning him over with his heeles upward; the *Indians* observed this, and greatly admired that a man should shoot so directly. The *Pequeats* were much daunted at the shot, and forbore approching so neere upon us. Being come to the *Pequeat* river we met with Captaine *Patrick*, who under his command had 40. able souldiers, who was ready to begin a second attempt: but many of our men being maimed and much wearied, we forbore that night and imbarqued our selves, my selfe setting sayle for *Seabrooke* Fort. Captaine *Mason*, and Captaine *Patrick* marching overland, burned and spoyled the Countrey betweene the *Pequeat* and *Conetticot* river, where we received them. The *Pequeats* having received so terrible a blow, and being much affrighted with the destruction of so many, the next day fell into consultation, assembling their most ablest men together propounded these three things, first

whether they would set upon a sudden revenge upon the *Narragansets*, or attempt an enterprize upon the *English*, or flye; they were in great dispute one amongst another, *Sasachus* their chiefe Commander was all for bloud, the rest for flight, alledging these arguments, wee are a people bereaved of courage, our hearts are saddened with the death of so many of our deare friends; wee see upon what advantage the *English* lye, what sudden & deadly blowes they strike? what advantage they have of their peeces to us which are not able to reach them with our arrows at distance? they are supplied with every thing necessary; they are flote and heartened in their victory; to what end shall wee stand it out with them? we are not able, therefore let us rather save some then lose all; this prevailed. Suddenly after they spoyled all those goods they could not carry with them, broke up their tents and Wigwams, and betook themselves to flight. *Sasachus* flying toward *Conetticot* plantation, quartered by the river side, there he met with a Shallop sent downe to *Seabrooke* Fort, which had in it 3. men, they let fly upon them, shot many arrows into them. Courageous were the *English*, and died in their hands, but with a great deale of valour. The forces which were prepared in the *Bay* were ready for to set forth: my selfe being taken on but for 3. moneths, and the souldiers willing to returne to the *Bay*, we imbarqued our selves, & set to sayle; in our journey we met with certaine Pinaces, in them a 100. able and wel appointed souldiers under the conduct of one Captaine *Stoughton*, and other infe-

riour officers; and in company with them one M. *Iohn Wilson*, who was sent to instruct the Company; these falling into *Pequeat* river, met with many of the distressed *Indians*, some they slew, others they tooke prisoners.

*FINIS.*



## Notes

- 2.13 *John Oldham* ] John Oldham (c.1600–1636) was active in the Indian trade and the Bay colony's negotiations with the western tribes. An emigrant to the Plymouth Colony in 1623, he was exiled from that community in 1624. He had resettled in Hull, and moved to Watertown in 1632. In 1634 he established a trading post on the Connecticut River at the future site of Wethersfield. Evidence suggests that Oldham was killed by members of the Narragansetts, two of whom were serving among his crew, and not by their rivals the Pequots. These events occurred in July 1636.
- 2.25–26 servants ... saved ] Two English boys serving with Oldham were taken prisoner but later returned to Boston.
- 2.27 Lord *Sey*, and the Lord *Brookes* plantation ] at Saybrook
- 2.28 *John Gallop* ] John Gallop or Gallup (c.1593–1650), pilot, fisherman, and trader of Boston.
- 3.15 *John Hendicot* ] John Endicott (1588–1665); generally considered the most intolerant and least conciliable of the early magistrates and governors.
- 3.17 *Nathan Turner* ] Nathaniel Turner (d.1646) was captain of the Saugus militia; he removed to New Haven in 1638.
- 3.18 *William Ienningson* ] William Jennison of Watertown, Mass. He had come to Massachusetts from Bermuda in 1630; he returned to England in 1651 and died after 1657.
- 5.9 *Dalilabs* ] Judges 16:4–21
- 5.26 *Abraham* ] Genesis 21:9–14
- 5.28 *suffe* ] *i.e.*, surf
- 6.12 *Pardues* ] *perdu* or *perdue*: a sentinel posted in hiding or ambush

- 7.1–2 pulls up his cocke and let fly ] *i.e.*, cocked and fired his musket
- 8.1–2 Captaine *Norton* ... Captaine *Stone* ] John Stone had stopped in Boston in the summer of 1633 carrying cattle and salt from Virginia. During his brief stay he was arrested twice on suspicion of piracy, adultery, and cursing the magistrates. He was fined and ordered out of port. Walter Norton (c.1580–1633) was associated with Gorges' New England trading ventures and had settled in Maine in 1623. He had embarked with Stone at Agamenticus (York, Maine) following Stone's eviction from Boston.
- 8.4 *Nahanticot* ] region occupied by the Niantic people, east of the Pequots and west of the Narragansett Bay.
- 8.9 Pequeat riuer ] Now known as the Thames River, emptying into Long Island Sound at New London, Conn.
- 13.7 champion field ] field suitable for a military engagement
- 14.25 *John Mason* ] John Mason (c.1600–1672); his account of the war was included in Increase Mather's *A Relation of the Troubles which Have Hapned in New-England by Reason of the Indians There from the Year 1614 to the Year 1675* (Boston, 1677), although Mather mis-attributed its authorship to John Allyn. It was published separately, and correctly attributed to Mason, much later, as *A Brief History of the Pequot War* (Boston, 1736).
- 15.23 *Water towne*, now called *Wethersfield* ] Wethersfield, Conn., on the Connecticut River a few miles south of Hartford, had been established by settlers from Watertown, Mass.
- 16.30 *Queenapiok* ] *i.e.*, Quinnipiac lay northwest of Saybrook Fort; Quinnipiac was later named New Haven.
- 17.5 *Agawwam* ] Agawam, near Springfield, Mass., on the Connecticut River about 5 miles north of the present Connecticut border.
- 17.24–25 *Elizabeth Islands* ] chain of small islands between Martha's Vineyard and Buzzards Bay
- 17.31 *Dukes bury* ] Duxbury, Mass., about 10 miles north of Plymouth.



- 18.9 *Piscataway* ] The Piscataqua River, a tidal estuary between Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine.
- 18.22 *Augumeaticus* ] Agamenticus, near present-day York, Maine.
- 18.23–24 Sir *Ferdinando Gorge* ] (1568–1647) Leading investor in several colonial ventures the New England coast, beginning in 1606. His company sponsored trading and fishing stations and sought to establish English settlements.
- 19.18 *Dedum* ] *i.e.*, Dedham, Mass., about 20 miles west of Boston; settled 1635.
- 20.9 Master *Tillie* ] John Tilly of Dorchester, Mass.; he had a storehouse at Saybrook Fort and was licensed to trade at Hartford. Despite being warned at Saybrook Fort not to land until he reached Wethersfield, he went ashore about 3 miles upriver and was captured.
- 20.27 Lieutenant *Seily* ] Robert Seeley (1602–1668). He had come to Watertown, Mass., in 1630, and helped establish Wethersfield in 1634 and New Haven in 1638. He went to England in 1659 but returned to settle in Huntingdon, Long Island in 1661.
- 22.6–7 the Minister, one *Master Stone* ] Samuel Stone (1602–1663), minister at Hartford.
- 26.1–2 hanging their Harpes upon the Willow trees ] Psalms 137:2
- 26.14 cried out *David*-like ... *Saul* ] 1 Samuel 27:1
- 27.19–22 speech of *David* ... *honey combe* ] Psalms 119:103
- 27.31 as *Peter* above the water ] Matthew 14:25–31
- 28.22–23 *Israel* of old ... hearts ] Deuteronomy 8:2
- 28.24–25 foolish young man in the Gospel ] Matthew 19:16–24
- 29.2 as Ephraim ] Hosea 10:10–12
- 30.15–16 *Paul* and *Barnabas* will contend ] Acts 15:2
- 31.18–19 I will not feare ... *David* ] Psalms 118:6
- 32.22 battalia ] order or arrangement of troops for battle
- 33.12 Hedge ] William Hedge or Hedges (1612–1670) of Lynn,

- Mass.; he later removed to Sandwich, Yarmouth, and Taunton.
- 33.21 in the other Booke ] [Philip Vincent], *A True Relation of the Late Battell fought in New England, between the English and the Salvages: With the present state of things there* (London, 1637).
- 34.17 *Buffe coate* ] protective garment of thick buffalo or ox leather worn by soldiers
- 35.27–28 *David's warre* ] 2 Samuel 12:31; 1 Chronicles 20:3
- 37.7 *Chirurgion* ] surgeon
- 39.9–10 Sergeant *Davis* ] Philip Davis (d.1689) of Hartford.
- 39.24–25 Captaine *Patrick* ] Daniel Patrick (d.1643), a veteran of the Low Country wars, was hired by the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630 to train soldiers and manufacture ammunition. He later moved to New Haven Colony and was involved in the founding of Greenwich, Conn. On his death and loose morals, see *The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630–1649* (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 67, 491–92.
- 40.13 flote ] *flought* or *flocht*: (obs.) in a state of agitation or excitement
- 40.31 Captaine *Stoughton* ] Israel Stoughton (1603–1644) of Dorchester, Mass. He returned to England in 1643 and became lieutenant colonel in the Parliamentary army.
- 41.1–2 M. *John Wilson* ] John Wilson (c.1591–1667), a graduate of Eton, King's College, and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was a founding member and the first pastor of the First Church in Boston.

## Note on the Text

This online electronic edition of *Newes from America; Or, A New and Experimentall Discoverie of New England; Containing, A True Relation of Their War-like Proceedings These Two Yeares Last Past, with a Figure of the Indian Fort, or Palizado* is based on the text of the first edition published in London in 1638. The spelling, punctuation, capitalization, italics, and orthography are those of the original edition. The text presented here was transcribed from digital page images of a copy of the first edition held by the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery and accessed online in the Sabin Americana series. One typographical errors has been corrected—at page 1, line 14: plant has been emended to plant.

The typeface is IM Fell DW Pica, digitized and furnished by Igino Marini [ <http://www.iginomarini.com/fell.html> ]. The decorative ornaments and initials are reconstructions of those used in the first London edition. The figure of the Indian fort is reproduced from the first edition.

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August 7, 2007

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The figure of the Indians fort or Palizado in  
**NEW ENGLAND**  
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And Captayne Mason

